Claims

1.   A method of using a processing server whereby in order for a
user terminal apparatus to access a server that performs
predetermined processing via a network and use functions of said
processing server, said user terminal apparatus makes a
reservation for the use of said processing server via a network to
a reservation control apparatus that controls the situation of the
reservation of said processing server and uses functions of said
processing server based on said reservation, said method
comprising:

a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request
information including a desired service time to use said
processing server from said user terminal apparatus to said
reservation control apparatus via the network;

a reservation accepting step of creating, when the
reservation for use of said processing server during said desired
service time included in said reservation request information is
accepted, authentication information which is used only for said
accepted reservation and sending the reservation setting
information including this authentication information from said
reservation control apparatus to said user terminal apparatus via
the network;

a storing step of writing and storing said authentication
information included in said reservation setting information sent

from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus;

a service requesting step of reading and sending, when said user terminal apparatus accesses and uses said processing server based on said reservation, said authentication information stored in said predetermined storage area from said user terminal apparatus; and

an authenticating step of deciding whether the use of said processing server by said user terminal apparatus should be accepted or not based on said authentication information sent from said user terminal apparatus.

2. The method of using the server according to Claim 1, wherein
in said storing step, said authentication information included in said reservation setting information is automatically written and stored in said predetermined storage area.

3. The method of using the server according to Claim 1, wherein:
in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control apparatus sends the reservation setting information including said authentication information to said user terminal apparatus and registers said authentication information in a database; and
in said authentication step, the use of said processing server is accepted only when the authentication information registered in the database of said reservation control apparatus

matches the authentication information sent from said user terminal.

4.   The method of using the server according to Claim 1, wherein:
said predetermined processing executed by said processing server is processing of carrying out stream distribution of content data to a requesting client terminal apparatus via the network; and
said user terminal apparatus for which the use of said processing server is accepted in said authentication step sends said content data to be distributed by said processing server to said client terminal apparatus to said processing server via the network.

5.   The method of using the server according to Claim 1, wherein:
in said reservation accepting step, said user terminal apparatus sends reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary to establish a communication/connection with said processing server to said user terminal apparatus via the network;
in said storing step, said user terminal apparatus stores said communication/connection information; and
in said service requesting step, said user terminal apparatus reads said stored communication/connection information and carries out processing to establish a communication/connection with said

processing server based on the read communication/connection information.

6.   The method of using the server according to Claim 5, wherein when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said processing server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information contains a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server.

7.   The method of using the server according to Claim 5, wherein said user terminal apparatus automatically starts processing to establish a communication/connection with said processing server at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation.

8.   The method of using the server according to Claim 1, further comprising

a notifying step of notifying the user of said user terminal apparatus at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation that the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come.

9.   The method of using the server according to Claim 1, wherein
     in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control
apparatus encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

10.   A method of using a server whereby in order for a user
terminal apparatus to access a processing server that performs
predetermined processing via a network and use functions of said
processing server, said user terminal apparatus makes a
reservation for the use of said processing server via the network
to a reservation control apparatus that controls the situation of
the reservation of said processing server and uses functions of
said processing server based on said reservation, said method
comprising:

     a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request
information including a desired service time to use said
processing server from said user terminal apparatus to said
reservation control apparatus via the network;

     a reservation accepting step of sending, when the reservation
for the use of said processing server during said desired service
time included in said reservation request information is accepted,
reservation setting information including communication/connection
information necessary for said user terminal apparatus to
establish a communication/connection with said processing server
from said reservation control apparatus to said user terminal
apparatus via the network;

a storing step of writing and storing said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus; and

a communication establishing step of reading, when said user terminal apparatus accesses and uses said processing server based on said reservation, said communication/connection information stored in said predetermined storage area and establishing a communication/connection with said processing server based on the read communication/connection information.

11. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein in said storing step, said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information is automatically written and stored in said predetermined storage area.

12. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein in said storing step, said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information is encrypted and written.

13. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein:

said predetermined processing executed by said processing server is processing of carrying out stream distribution of content data to a requesting client terminal apparatus via the network; and

after the communication/connection with said processing server is established in said communication establishing step, said user terminal apparatus sends said content data to be distributed to said client terminal apparatus to said processing server via the network.

14. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said processing server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information includes a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server.

15. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein when the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come, processing for establishing a communication/connection of said user terminal apparatus with said processing server is automatically started.

16. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, further comprising

a notifying step of notifying, at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation, the user of said user terminal apparatus that the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come.

17. The method of using the server according to Claim 10, wherein

in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control apparatus encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

18. A server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a processing server that performs predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to access the processing server via a network and use functions of said processing server, said server reservation control appratus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server provided from said user terminal apparatus via a network;

reservation setting information generating means for generating, when a reservation for the use of said processing server in said desired service time contained in said reservation request information is accepted, reservation setting information

including authentication information used only for said accepted reservation; and

transmitting means for transmitting the reservation setting information including the authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the network.

19. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein

said reservation setting information generating means includes a command to execute processing of automatically writing and storing said reservation setting information in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus in said reservation setting information.

20. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising:

an authentication information database for storing the authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means; and

authenticating means for receiving, when said user terminal apparatus sends authentication information to obtain a permission to use said processing server based on said reservation, the authentication information sent, deciding whether the received authentication information matches the authentication information

stored in said authentication information database or not and accepting the use of said processing server by said user terminal apparatus only when the two authentication information pieces match.

21. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein

said transmitting means encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

22. A server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a processing server that performs predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to access the processing server via a network and use functions of said processing server, said server reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server provided from said user terminal apparatus via a network;

reservation setting information generating means for generating, when a reservation for the use of said processing server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary for said

user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server via the network; and

transmitting means for transmitting the reservation setting information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the network.

23. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein

said reservation setting information generating means includes a command to execute processing of automatically writing and storing said reservation setting information in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus in said reservation setting information.

24. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein

when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said processing server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information includes a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server.

25. The server reservation control apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein

said transmitting means encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

26. A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a processing server that performs predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to access the processing server via a network and use functions of said processing server, said program comprising:

reception processing that receives reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server provided from said user terminal apparatus via a network;

reservation setting information generation processing that, when a reservation for the use of said processing server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, generates reservation setting information including authentication information used only for said accepted reservation; and

transmission processing that transmits the reservation setting information including authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the network.

27. A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a processing server that performs predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to access the processing server via a network and use functions of said processing server, said program comprising:

reception processing that receives reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server provided from said user terminal apparatus via a network;

reservation setting information generation processing that, when a reservation for the use of said processing server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, generates reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary for said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server via the network; and

transmission processing that transmits said reservation setting information to said user terminal apparatus via the network.